

[Print](#) | [Close Window](#)**Subject:** KFIZ Quarterly Issues and Programs for January**From:** bnelson@mdogmedia.com**Date:** Mon, Feb 01, 2016 2:16 pm**To:** "MJ Hart" <mjhart@mdogmedia.com>**Attach:** 1-31-16 Morning Show.doc

MJ: Here are the interviews I co-hosted with Bob Hoffmaster on The Morning Show for January and information on them for the Quarterly Issues and Programs Report. Bob N.

Thursday, January 7th:

The Fond du Lac Area United Way still has a few weeks to make its fundraising goal for 2015. United Way Executive Director Amber Kilawee says they are at 90 percent of their \$756,000 goal. She says they've raised a little over \$682,000. She says they have up until Thursday, January 21st to reach that goal. She says it's not unusual for United Way campaigns to stretch into a new year. She says individual donations are nice, but company and corporate campaigns also have a huge impact on their fundraising efforts.

You can give at their office at 74 S. Main Street, Suite 201 in Fond du Lac or on their website.

Sandy Bernier the program coordinator for the 5 Counties for Tobacco Free Living talked about quitting smoking and tobacco in general. She says 70 percent of smokers want to quit and about 40 percent pick this time of year to try. She says there are two things you should consider if you're going to try and quit. She says you should consult your health care provider to see if medication will work and also consider counseling. Bernier a former smoker says she looked at videos at the CDC website of people who had successfully quit. She says one of them said to keep busy and expect there to be bumps in the road. Bernier says the best way to start is to call the Wisconsin Quit Line at 1-800-784-8669. She says you can also get a Quit Tobacco folder with helpful information through her office at the Fond du Lac County Health Department.

Thursday, January 14th:

Ryan Roecker the incoming vice president of the Fond du Lac Area United Way Board of Directors and Hollie Moe of the United Way were guests. There's less than a week left in the Fond du Lac Area United Way campaign. Holly Moe of the United Way says they are getting closer to their goal, but they are not quite there yet. She says they are at 94 percent of their \$756,000 goal, but have about \$45,000 to raise to reach the goal. Next Thursday the United Way Board of Directors will meet to start making decisions about allocations to United Way agencies. You can donate to the 2015 campaign up until that time. Roecker, of Society Insurance, says people usually give to a variety of non-profit organizations and a United Way donation will benefit more than two dozen charities. This year Society Insurance celebrated its 100th anniversary in the community and also served as the United Way's junior pace-setters. Roecker says it wasn't difficult to find people in their company who wanted to help with the United Way effort.

Fond du Lac Public Works Director Jordan Skiff talked about a master plan for Lakeside Park. A committee will get together tomorrow to review three requests for proposals for a Lakeside Park master plan. Skiff says they sent out requests for proposals to engineering and planning firms and three were interested in doing the plan for the City. He says they will incorporate some of the 27 recommendations the Lakeside Park Exploratory Committee came up with into the plan. He says about 10 of those recommendations will be included. Skiff says the firm they select to do the plan will have about four months to do their work. He says they would like the City Council to have the firm's recommendations by late May in case they need to include funding in the 2017 City Budget for any of the suggestions. Skiff also says with a mild winter so far there haven't been many water main breaks in the City. He also talked briefly about the development of the South Park Avenue Park.

Thursday, January 21st:

Fond du Lac County Clerk Lisa Freiberg says new voting equipment will be ready for the primary election on Tuesday, February 16th. She says 48 new voting machines were purchased and the total cost including software came to about \$434,000. She says modems they will use to send voting results back to the County's Clerk's office from each polling location are totally secure. She says the voting results will be encrypted. She says the new machines are basically computers and information from them will be encrypted. She says that information will be decrypted at her office after it's sent in.

She says the machine that you place your completed ballot in will take a photo of your ballot. Freiberg says that will make it easier to go through ballots if there is a recount or someone files an open records request. She also talked about using photo ID such as driver's license at the polls, absentee ballots and voter registration.

Moraine Park Technical College Vice President of Academic Affairs Jim Eden and Lisa Pollard the Associate Dean of Business and Information Technology were guests. Students in Moraine Park's IT Club have been getting practical experience helping out seniors at the Fond du Lac Senior Center. Pollard says the students do classes and one-on-one instruction with seniors. She says they are teaching basic computer skills. She says they help the seniors with questions about navigating computers or their smart phones, tablets and how do basic things like take a photo and upload it to a website. She says the program has been a success. She says it is service learning and the kind of experience they will need in the field when they are working. Eden talked about the Discover Moraine Park Events that will be held on their Fond du Lac, Beaver Dam and West Bend campuses next month. He says it is for high school students, displaced workers, and people looking to change their career and allows them to find out more about MPTC. He says as part of that activity they will waive their \$30 application fee.

Monday, January 25th:

Fond du Lac Schools Superintendent Jim Sebert talked about the school board's recent letter to area legislators about legislation that would limit when a school district could hold a referendum. Sebert says referendums are a way of addressing a district's needs. He says it's a conversation between the board of education, a school district and its community about needs and desires to make something happen. He says districts and communities need to maintain local control and the proposed legislation

MJ: Here are the interviews I co-hosted with Bob Hoffmaster on The Morning Show for February and information on them for the Quarterly Issues and Programs Report. Bob N.

Monday, February 1st:

Fond du Lac County Executive Al Buechel was a guest. He is renewing his call for the state to do a study on the human health impacts of wind turbines. The County Board passed a resolution in August of 2013 asking for the study from the state. Buechel says the state included money in the state budget for a study then took it out. He says the \$250,000 for a study wouldn't have been enough to do the study right. Buechel says he recently sent a letter to state legislators asking them to restore funding to do the study. He included a copy of the 2013 Fond du Lac County resolution. Some town officials in Dodge County have been discussing the possibility of sharing in the County's sale tax, but Buechel says that wouldn't work here. He says with the sales tax due to sunset early in the next decade it would not be worth the effort. He says you also have to consider that 30 percent of the sales tax is going towards economic development including the credits for the Mercury Marine loan.

State Representative Joan Ballweg talked about legislation she recently introduced which would give amnesty to sexual victims who had been drinking and are under age. She says the state attorney general says 75 percent of all sexual assaults involve alcohol and sometimes the perpetrator uses alcohol as a tool. The state lawmaker from Markesan says the bill would also give amnesty to underage drinkers who came to the victim's assistance or witnessed the crime. Ballweg says the victim goes through a variety of emotions and should not have to worry about losing their college housing or face being kicked out of a program because they were drinking.

Thursday, February 4th:

Former UW-Fond du Lac Dean and current Fond du Lac County Board member Judy Goldsmith gave us an update on the Humanity Project in Fond du Lac. She says they've made some great strides during the pilot program that is attempting to reduce tensions and misunderstandings about race. Goldsmith says there is a lot of diversity in the group's membership. She says they have a wonderful time together and what they are doing is really impressive. She says there is a lot we still don't understand about each other. She says they have a couple more meetings this year before they do a wrap up meeting. Goldsmith says they will start up again in September and hope to expand on what they have accomplished. She says they hope to bring more people into their membership and will form a speakers' bureau to talk to other groups about what they are doing.

Fond du Lac County District Attorney Eric Toney gave us a recap of a murder trial that took the better part of two weeks and ended late last week. Eve Nance was convicted of shooting her husband to death in November of 2013 and of hiding his corpse. He says there were some challenges in putting on a long murder trial. He says from 150 to 160 people were in the jury pool for the Even Nance trial. He also says the prosecution had a potential witness list of 80 people. He says that was whittled down to about 30 or 40 witnesses. He says there were also weeks of witness meetings before the trial. Toney

says he and Deputy DA Dennis Krueger also had to go through about 20 hours of video interviews that were conducted with Nance by detectives. The next phase is sentencing and Toney says he hasn't decided what to recommend yet. He says the judge could consider several alternatives including life in prison without the possibility of extended supervision or parole. He says the judge could decide to give the opportunity for supervision and release from prison after 20 or more years in prison.

Monday, February 8th:

Fond du Lac Schools Superintendent Jim Sebert talked about plans to improve the Fruth Field Football complex. The school board will discuss the plans during their meeting tonight. Sebert says they made improvements a couple years ago to improve handicap accessibility. He says the planned improvements would benefit more than people who attend football games. He says they would update their lighting and sound, put in a formal seating area for the band, a community walking track and synthetic turf would also be installed. He says the new turf means they could host more just football games. He says it would be wide enough for soccer games and they could do community events there. He says the wooden poles for lighting would be replaced. He says the lights would be moved behind the bleachers and the brightness of the lights would be improved. He says the community interest in the improvements is pretty significant and they may be eligible for a \$250,000 grant through the NFL Grassroots Foundation. The estimated cost of the project is about \$2 million.

Fond du Lac Area United Way Executive Director Amber Kilawee gave us a final update on their fall fundraising campaign. They surpassed their goal. It was the 5th consecutive year the local agency surpassed its goal. The two pacesetters for the campaign, Brenner Tank and Society Insurance raised \$68,000 between them. Kilawee says they raised \$757,354 this year or about \$1,300 more than they were shooting for. She says they provide funding for 25 agencies and the money they raise for them allows those agencies to concentrate on providing community services. She says those agencies provide 28 programs in the area. She says that will provide help to 31,295 people this year.

Thursday, February 11th:

State Senate Minority Leader Jennifer Shilling talked about a bill that would prohibit county executives from running for state office. Shilling says the bill introduced by State Senator Majority Leader Scott Fitzgerald is targeted at Winnebago County Executive Mark Harris who is running for the 18th State Senate seat. Harris is a Democrat and the seat is currently held by Republican Rick Gudex of Fond du Lac who chose not to run for reelection. Shilling says Republican had no problem letting Governor Scott Walker run for president on the taxpayer's dime. She says Harris should be able to run for the office and make his own decision about the County Executive position if he is elected. She also talked about a Corrections Reform bill that Democrats would like to see passed. She says corrections officers have a dangerous job, morale is low, and there's a high cost for overtime with a number of vacancies.

Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources Sturgeon Biologist Ryan Koenigs talked about the upcoming sturgeon spearing season on Lake Winnebago and the Upriver Lakes. The safety of ice conditions has been a problem all winter long, but Koenigs says it's too early to say whether those conditions and water clarity will affect the season,

which starts in a couple of days. He says the clarity recently improved by 2 to 3 feet compared to their most recent survey of conditions. Koenigs says the impact of the season on the economy is greater now than when a study was last done 10 years ago. At the time it was estimated that the impact of a 16 day season would be \$3.5 million. But Koenigs says there are a lot more people getting sturgeon licenses than a decade ago. He says that economic impact has to be quite a bit more because more people are coming out on the ice to participate in the sport. Koenigs that doesn't take into account all of those who are out on the ice just to watch or visit with those who are spearing. He says there are even more at the registration stations and bars to watch fish being registered. He also talked about conservation efforts over the years.

Monday, February 15th:

State Representative Jeremy Thiesfeldt talked about the resignation of State Corrections Secretary Ed Wall. Wall resigned in the wake of a scandal at the Lincoln Hills School for Boys, but also for the way he ran the department. Thiesfeldt says Wall started out with the best of intentions, but coming from a law enforcement background automatically put him at odds with corrections officers. He also talked about the death of U.S. Supreme Court Justice Antonin Scalia over the weekend. He says he admired Scalia and the appointment of his successor is important to both the judicial branch and executive branch of the federal government. Thiesfeldt also talked about State Senator Duey Stroebel being named chairman for Senator Ted Cruz's presidential campaign efforts in Wisconsin. Six State Assemblymen were named co-chairs for the campaign. Thiesfeldt says he was hoping to be named one, but wasn't contacted in time.

Waupun School District Superintendent Tonya Gubin talked about an upcoming referendum in the district. She says a facility committee will be meeting on February 29th and will make some final decisions. She says district residents will be sent a survey and have a chance to give their input. She says they are looking at a \$30 million referendum or the same amount the high school referendum was 20 years ago. She says that debt will be retired in two years and if a building referendum is passed in November district taxpayers would not see an increase in their taxes. She went in to some detail about improvements needed at the district's schools. She also talked about improvements in district reading scores and an effort to do something about the poverty some of their younger students face. She says they will be doing a fill the bus effort to gather donations of new underwear and socks for those students.

Thursday, February 18th:

Rosendale-Brandon Schools Superintendent Gary Hansen will be retiring this year after 44 years in education. Hansen has spent 42 of those years in the district, the last 15 years as superintendent. He says he's proud of the improvement students have made in testing scores, the fact that all four schools exceed expectations, and Laconia High School being rated among the top seven percent in the nation by U.S. News and World Report. They've also been on the plus side of open enrollment. He says he's been fortunate to be surrounded by good people during his entire time in the district. Hansen retires at the end of June and will be succeeded by Laconia High School Principal Wayne Weber who Hansen says is more than qualified. Hansen says each year at the high school graduation while the band is playing he leans over to Weber and whispers "Spartan Pride." He says that will have extra meaning this year.

Moraine Park Technical College President Bonnie Baerwald talked about transfer fairs that will be held next week at their Beaver Dam, Fond du Lac and West Bend campuses. They will be Tuesday in Beaver Dam, Wednesday in Fond du Lac, and Thursday in West Bend. Times are 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. MPTC President Bonnie Baerwald says it's a nice opportunity for people to make a change in their education. More than 20 four-year colleges and universities will be represented at the transfer fairs. Baerwald also brought Fred Rice MPTC's Dean of Applied Technology and Trades. He talked about an Engineering open house that will be held at the school's Fond du Lac campus on Thursday, March 3rd. He says from 4:30 to 6:30 p.m. the open house will explore engineering technician associate degrees. He says prospective students and their parents will have access to their learning labs including robotics. He says major employers in the Moraine Park District will be part of the open house. He says those employers are offering incentive scholarships and internships.

Monday, February 22nd:

Fond du Lac Schools Superintendent Jim Sebert talked about the \$2 million in improvements the school district would like to make to Fruth Field. He says in addition to football, soccer could be played on it with the addition of artificial turf. There would also be a community walking track, new lighting and sound, a place to stage community events. Sebert also talked about the relationship between the school district and the Fond du Lac Boys & Girls Club. He says the Boys & Girls Club provide them with many after school programs and programs at the schools as well. Sebert also talked about some of the business the board will conduct at tonight's meeting including the approval of a field trip to Germany for some high school students, presentations from three of the winners of Acuity Education Grants from last year, and nominations the high school music department has received for high schools' equivalent of the Tony Awards, the Tommy Awards.

Members of the groups STOMP or Stop The Ongoing Mine Permit talked about their opposition to a sand mine in the Auburn-Ashford Drive Area of the Town of Ashford. They filed a lawsuit last September after the Town Board of Appeals granted a special exception permit allowing the mining operation by Batzler Trucking. From the group Debbie Bates, Stephanie Brehm and Nathan Scheel talked about the lawsuit and their opposition to the mine. Bates says the mine abuts a cul-de-sac where many people live. Brehm says the mine is west of their properties, but the winds prevail from the west. She says it could affect the value of their homes, their health, and it sits on top of their water supply. Scheel says about 80 people turned out the Town Board of Appeals meeting last August where the permit was granted and most of those attending were opposed to the granting of the permit.

Thursday, February 25th:

Ellen Sorensen the grant coordinator for the Drug Free Communities of Fond du Lac County talked about the work they do and a check presentation that will be held at the North Fond du Lac Village Hall this afternoon. Jake Hass will present the DFC with a check. He and his band held a concert that raised money for opioid and heroin awareness and prevention efforts, which is the type of work the DFC does. Jake's older brother Tyler died of a heroin overdose on Thanksgiving Day of 2011. She says Jake

and the family have been involved in similar efforts every year. Sorensen talked about some of the progress they've made over the past few years in combating opioid and heroin use in the community. That's included a couple of community forums and more.

Fond du Lac Community Development Director Dyann Benson talked about the closing of the Retlaw Hotel and the sale of the Forest Mall. She says it will take months before the public will learn more about each of those developments. She says the Retlaw went through receivership and there has been interest in it, but no concrete buyers yet. She says it will also take time for the investors who bought the mall to develop a plan for it before they get input from City leaders. Benson also encouraged residents to consider applying for the Downtown Exploratory Committee being put together by the City Council. The deadline is Friday, February 26th. Applications have to be turned in to the City Clerk's office by 4:30 p.m. She also talked a little about the work the City's Historic Preservation Committee has been up to recently. She oversees those efforts.

Monday, February 29th:

Jake Hass presented the Drug Free Communities of Fond du Lac County a check for \$800 during a press conference at the North Fond du Lac Village Hall on Thursday, February 25th. We played a recording of the press conference and an interview with Hass that was conducted after the press conference. His brother Tyler died of an overdose of heroin on Thanksgiving Day of 2011. He talked about missing his brother and how he had died too soon to really enjoy life. Jake and his metal band Capital Agony and other metal bands did a concert at The Shack Events Center in Fond du Lac to raise money for efforts to combat opioid and heroin addiction. He plans to do a similar concert every year and give the money they raise to groups like Drug Free Communities, which promotes awareness and education about opioid and heroin use.

Holly Brenner, Craig Molitor and Jenny Knuth of the steering committee for Envision Fond du Lac talked the strategic plan. Brenner says it grew out of Leadership Fond du Lac Team project that she was part of in 2014. She says out of that grew Envision Fond du Lac in which they asked people what their vision of Fond du Lac is in 10 to 20 years and what would they like it to look like. They spoke to people in boardrooms, class rooms, on factory floors and elsewhere to get their input. Out of the nearly 1,000 conversations they had they got three bid ideas, Our Economy, Our Identity, and Our Next Generation. The plan will be unveiled to the public during two open houses. The first is on Wednesday, March 9th from 5:30 to 8:30 p.m. in the Fond du Lac High School Media Center. The second is on Thursday, March 10th from 8 to 10 a.m. at the Fond du Lac Family YMCA.

Police in Fond du Lac are investigating the death of a 34-year-old inmate at Taycheedah Correctional Institution. Assistant Police Chief Steve Thiry (THEORY) says it started out as an ambulance call for an inmate who had collapsed. He says the investigation is in its initial stages as they wait for results from the medical examiner's office on the cause of death. The state's Department of Corrections says the inmate was Crystal McClendon.

A 38-year-old Ripon woman suspected of making methamphetamine at her home has been charged in Fond du Lac County Court. Shannon McCullagh Hurley made her initial appearance Thursday on methamphetamine and marijuana possession charges and a charge of possessing materials used in making methamphetamine. Evidence of a meth lab was found at her residence at 204 ½ Eureka Street when a search warrant was executed. Bond was set at \$500 cash. A preliminary hearing has been scheduled for May 5th.

Oshkosh Police are looking for a substantial battery suspect. The battery occurred at the Jockey Club on E. Gruenwald Avenue on Friday, April 8 at 9:30 p.m. It started in the tavern and continued outside. A 20-year-old Oshkosh man suffered facial injuries and was taken to a local hospital. The suspect is a tall white man. He had a partially amputated middle finger on his left hand. Police have released photos of him. (You can see those photos at KFIZ.com).

During a stop in Fond du Lac this week UW Colleges Chancellor Cathy Sandeen said it will take nine months to a year to effect changes in the Cooperative Extension Service. Changes are necessary because of state budget cuts. Sandeen says similar to the regional leadership approach they took with their two-year colleges; the Cooperative Extension Service will have administrative teams that will manage services in three or four county areas.

Former U.S. Senator Russ Feingold says terrorists have to be stopped and not be made a political issue. In his latest TV ad Feingold says he has a comprehensive plan for doing that. And just what does that plan involve? He says you can cut off their oil supplies and finances. He also says when it comes to Isis and Al Qaeda you also have to knock off their leaders. He's challenging incumbent U.S. Senator Ron Johnson this fall for the seat he lost to Johnson nearly six years ago.

The North Fond du Lac Village Board this week granted a special use permit that will allow Korneli's BP to expand. Village Administrator Chuck Hornung says the gas station on Prospect Avenue will increase the concrete pad around the front of the station, put in some coolers and offer more inside the store for customers. He says it's a project store owners have had in the works for more than a year. Korneli's also has two locations in Fond du Lac, on South Main Street and East Johnson Street.

U.S. Senator Ron Johnson was able to include an amendment in the reauthorization of the Federal Aviation Administration that would prohibit the FAA from charging events like EAA AirVenture in Oshkosh additional fees for their air traffic controllers to work the towers. He says since the policy shift in 2012 the FAA has levied well over a million dollars in new fees. He says what the FAA is doing to AirVenture and other similar fly-in events are wrong and needs to stop.

During the Waupun Common Council's reorganizational meeting this week Alderman Mike Johnson was elected to another term as council president. The vote for council president was cast by secret ballot with Johnson getting three votes. Alderman Pete Kaczmariski (KAZ-mar-skee) got two votes and Alderwoman Nancy Vanderkin one vote.

U.S. Senator Ron Johnson's staff will be in Rosendale next Monday for mobile office hours. They will be at the Rosendale Village Hall from 9:30 to 10:30 a.m. the Mobile office hours allow constituents to meet with the senator's staff to request assistance with a federal agency or regarding other federal matters.

The Disabled American Veterans Mobile Service Office will be making a stop in Fond du Lac next month to provide counseling and claim filing assistance to area veterans. The DAV Mobile Service Office will be at the American Legion Post on Fond du Lac Avenue from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Thursday, May 5th. They will also be in Oshkosh on Wednesday, May 4th from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the Elks Club. A stop is also planned during those same hours at the VFW Post in West Bend on Friday, May 6th. The service is free to all veterans and members of their families.

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Thursday, March 3rd:

Derek TerBeest of Fond du Lac was interested in serving on the Downtown Fond du Lac Exploratory Committee, but an incumbent Council member talked him into running for the City Council instead. TerBeest says he's been interested in what is going on in the City. He says there are a lot of good things going on in Fond du Lac and he has watched the Council's role in that. He knew Council President Lee Ann Lorrigan and talked to her about serving on the Exploratory Committee, but he says she asked him to make a stronger commitment to the City by running for Council. He says he gave it some thought before diving into it. He says he's always been interested in politics, national, state and more recently local politics.

Fond du Lac City Council President Lee Ann Lorrigan says it was good to work with the Downtown Fond du Lac Partnership Board of Directors on picking a Downtown Fond du Lac Exploratory Committee. She says they were all working with a common goal of improving the downtown. The committee will be picked during a Committee of the Whole meeting of the City Council and Partnership Board tonight. Both sides have already picked their top choices and finalize them this evening. The City Council next Wednesday (March 9th) will be asked to approve the appointments. It will be up to the committee to select a chairperson and when they will meet. Lorrigan is also seeking a third term on the Council next month. She says she has pushed for economic development during her four years on the Council, but it has to be done right. Lorrigan is one of four candidates running for four seats on the City Council.

The tragic shooting death of Wisconsin State Trooper Trevor Casper had a place during the Fond du Lac County Law Enforcement Executive Association annual awards luncheon this week. Fond du Lac Assistant Police Chief Steve Klein completed his year as the Association's president with the luncheon. He says Trooper Trevor Casper's fatal exchange of gunfire with a bank robber near the Pick 'N Save on Johnson Street saved lives and in particular the life of a young woman who was driving behind the store when the shooting started. He says she was hiding beneath her vehicle and was terrified. For that the Officer of the Year Award was given posthumously to Trooper Casper. His parents Kevin and Debbie Casper accepted the award on his behalf. Klein gave State Trooper Clarissa Justmann the President's Award. He says she hadn't been a trooper very long when Casper had the shootout with Steven Snyder. He says she was there that day, saw the gunfire exchange, tried to save Trevor's life, and once he was in the ambulance was back on the job. The awards luncheon was held at the Knights of Columbus Hall in Fond du Lac.

Monday, March 7th:

An official with the state's Department of Health Services says the general public need not fear getting a rare bloodstream infection. Stephanie Smiley is the director of the bureau of communicable diseases. She says the Elizabethkingia bacteria was named after the scientist who discovered it in the 1950s. She says what makes the recent outbreak so unusual is it rarely affects human beings. She says primarily it affects those over the age of 65 with compromised immune systems or serious underlying health

conditions. Forty-four people in southern Wisconsin contracted it. One person in Fond du Lac County got it, but was treated at St. Agnes Hospital. Smiley says it is treatable. There have been 18 deaths, but officials aren't sure if it was due to the bacteria or the patients other serious health conditions.

U.S. Senator Ron Johnson was a guest. He served on a panel at the Conservative Political Action Conference last week. The federal lawmaker from Oshkosh says the panel discussed over regulation and particularly pertaining to the EPA. He says regulation is really hurting economic growth. He says just a one percent change in growth from 2 to 3 percent a year would create an additional \$14 trillion in economic activity over 10 years. Johnson says the regulatory burden needs to be reduced to spur economic growth. Also while President Obama was in Milwaukee last week touting the success of his health care program, Wisconsin Senator Ron Johnson was pointing out its shortcomings. The federal lawmaker from Oshkosh gave as an example what a 60-year-old Spooner woman had written to him about how her health care coverage has suffered under Obamacare. He says before Obamacare she was paying \$276 a month for coverage and now she is paying \$787. He says the Patient Protection and Affordable Health Care plan is not living up to its name. He says a lot of things that were promised with Obamacare haven't come true. He says he will continue to work to repeal Obamacare.

Thursday, March 10th:

U.S. Senator Ron Johnson talked about the flood of Central American unaccompanied minors in the U.S. It's a problem he addressed to Homeland Security Secretary Jeh Johnson when Johnson's Homeland Security Committee talked to the secretary about his department's 2017 Budget. Johnson chairs the committee. Johnson also talked about President Obama's effort to shut down the Federal Guantanamo Bay facility where the nation sends terrorists. He says it's not a good idea. Johnson also talked about the passing of former First Lady Nancy Reagan. He says her "Just Say No" to drugs public relations and education program 30 years ago had an impact on the use of drugs like cocaine and the nation could benefit from something similar with the opioid and heroin problems it's having now. He also talked briefly about the importance of the having the next presidential administration appoint a successor to fill the spot of the late U.S. Supreme Court Justice Antonin Scalia.

Fond du Lac Public Works Director Jordan Skiff talked about a variety of topics. He says a decision the City Council made last night not to include a roundabout at Merrill and Main when North Main Street is improved in a couple of years is a good decision. He says it would cost up to \$1 million for the purchase of right of way and one business would have to be relocated. Skiff also says the installation of a right turn lane at the southern most driveway at WalMart will take place this spring. He says it should help alleviate the accidents people are having trying to leave the driveway. Skiff also touched upon some of the improvements that will be made in Lakeside Park this year including the extension of a bike and walking trail.

Monday, March 14th:

Fond du Lac Schools Superintendent Jim Sebert talked about some of the business that will come before the school board tonight. The Board will approve the budget for the Summer School program. The overall budget is nearly \$338,000, but that includes

remedial and enrichment programs. Sebert says it's a great program. The board will also approve a 1 percent hike in pay for 28 administrators. Sebert says the 1 percent is what they gave their other employee groups too. The total increase for those administrators came to \$26,488, each will receive \$946. The board will also hold a workshop to talk about proposed enhancements for Fruth Field. Sebert says the improvements would include artificial or synthetic turf. He says there would be benefits to that over the real grass they have played on. He says you could practice when it's wet and there would be less wear and tear. Sebert says it could be used for soccer, community events and other activities as well. The estimated cost for all the enhancements would be up to \$2 million. Sebert says they would get donations and pledges to cover costs long before he considered asking the board to borrow from the fund balance to do the project.

Fond du Lac County Executive Al Buechel gave us an update on the student housing for the UW-Fond du Lac. He says student housing at the campus won't open until August of next year. He says the developer Keller Construction had an investor back out. He says Keller wasn't able to move on in time for 2016 construction. He says they have lined up another developer. He says MDC out of Madison has built student housing in Madison and around the state. BMOC, a Madison-based company, would manage the housing. Originally they were looking at a 3-story 84 bed facility. Buechel says if they go with four stories more beds could be accommodated, but that will be up to the developer. He says the County set a base number of 76 beds, but the community could support up to 120 beds. He also talked about a proposal to put in slotted left turns lanes at State Highway 23 and County Highway K in Fond du Lac and gave an update on the second phase of a project at the County-owned Harbor Haven Health and Rehabilitation. He says after the project is finished they will have 32 private beds in the facility, which is what patients want these days.

Thursday, March 17th:

Mark Jurgella is the vice president of the Fond du Lac School Board. He says he has some issues with a proposal to enhance Fruth Field. He says improvements to lighting and sound are reasonable and worth exploring. But he some proposed improvements he feels are unnecessary. Jurgella says that includes artificial turf, a pavilion, a band area enhancement and other suggestions. He also doesn't like the idea of using the district's fund balance to pay for the project while donations and pledges are still being collected. He says they tried that with the recent improvements and that didn't work. Jurgella says he agrees with what fellow board member Mark Strand said during a workshop on the Fruth Field enhancements. Strand said, "When you have the money, then we will talk." He also talked about running for another term on the school board. Jurgella would like to see the Fond du Lac School District pull back on athletics and try and attract more top teachers. He says it would be great to make Fond du Lac top notch in the classroom also.

Moraine Park Technical College President Bonnie Baerwald talked about an upcoming job fair. It will be at the UW-Fond du Lac on Wednesday, April 13th from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Hours for the job fair are 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Moraine Park Technical College She says it's a collaborative effort. The Fond du Lac Area Association of Commerce and Job and Career Center co-sponsor the event. MPTC, Marian University and the UW-Fond du Lac take turns every year hosting the event which is free to the public. She says jobseekers can get help with their resume or getting cloths for interviews during events in the week prior to the event at the UW-Fond du Lac. She says their will be an employer

discussion panel on April 7th and a career clothes closet April 5th through the 7th. Lisa Pollard, the associate dean of Information Technology and Business and Derrick Ludtke also talked about MPTC's income tax assistance program during the segment.

Monday, March 21st:

Tom Wilhelms, Julie Woznick and Troy Riehl of the Habitat for Humanity of Fond du Lac County chapter were guests. Wilhelms is the executive director, Woznick president of the board of directors, and Riehl is the manager of Habitat's ReStore on West Scott Street in Fond du Lac. They talked about Wilhelms being picked as the new executive director, a job he took over on February 29th. Wilhelms was a long haul trucker and even ran the Foxhole Bar for the Fond du Lac American Legion. But Woznick says Wilhelms knows the community and has been involved in many organizations including the Legion. She says they had a long search for a new executive director. She says he has a good grasp of what Habitat for Humanity is all about. Wilhelms says Habitat is a way for him to give back to the community. They also talked briefly about a groundbreaking for their next house build, which will be on Saturday, April 2nd at 11 a.m. at 471 West Division Street in Fond du Lac.

Thursday, March 24th:

Incumbent Fond du Lac City Councilwoman Karyn Merkel talked about running for reelection. She says it's an exciting time to be living in the City. She says the Downtown Fond du Lac Partnership, the Downtown Exploratory Committee, Association of Commerce, Convention and Visitors Bureau, and Fond du Lac County Economic Development Corporation are all working together to make Fond du Lac the best place it could be. She says believes the new Downtown Exploratory Committee will be under a lot of scrutiny. She says that's a good thing, but she believes they like the Lakeside Park Exploratory Committee will be open to ideas. She's also open to the idea of being Council President, although she says Lee Ann Lorrigan is currently doing a good job in that role and Sam Meyer did a nice job before that so it would be hard shoes to fill. Merkel was originally appointed to the Council to replace Jim Sabel.

Fond du Lac School Board member Elizabeth Hayes says she considered not running for reelection, but eventually decided she wanted to continue to serve. Hayes has been on the board for 30 years. She says she's very mindful of the burden on taxpayers and says that's one reason she would not support using the district's fund balance to pay for enhancements to Fruth Field. She says over the past four years in particular legislators have not had much trust in the local control of school boards. She says she's found that school board members become pretty expert in what they are doing after a few years. She says they are also elected by local voters and wouldn't be if voters didn't trust them. Hayes says with cuts in public education funding and more money going to the voucher program school board's can't be the only ones advocating for more funding. She says parents also have to become involved.

Monday, March 28th:

Fond du Lac City Councilman Brian Kolstad is running for the Fond du Lac County Board and in particular the 22nd Supervisory District seat. It's currently represented by Ted Eischeid, but Eischeid is retiring and decided not to seek reelection. Kolstad says one of the reasons he's running is to improve communications between the City Council

and County Board, which he thinks could happen with someone on the board who serves on both. He says in going door-to-door he also heard from people who thought the City and County should have worked together when the state proposed having a portion of Highway 45 turned over to the jurisdiction of the City and the County. Kolstad is also concerned about the economy and economic development efforts.

Peggy Breister is running for the Fond du Lac School Board. She used to report on school board meetings, but now she will be one of those serving on the board. Breister, who used to work for the Fond du Lac Reporter, is one of three candidates for three seats on the board. She says she has always been impressed with the level of commitment school board members have. She says education is important to her and it is one of the smartest things we can spend money on. She says she would like to be part of that decision-making process. She says she has a couple of problems with proposed enhancements for Fruth Field. She says a proposal to put in artificial turf given the proximity to the Fond du Lac River and past flooding doesn't make sense. Plus she says the district still is shy about a \$500,000 on paying for the improvements they made to the field's entrance. She says the school choice voucher program in her opinion hurts public schools.

Ginni Thomas is the wife of Supreme Court Justice Clarence Thomas and a contributor to the political site Daily Caller. She is stumping for Texas Senator Ted Cruz's presidential campaign. She says he's continued the battle in Washington against the Obama Administration when other Republicans sat on the sidelines. Thomas told us Republicans lost the battle when it came to Obamacare, but that could change if Cruz is elected president. Thomas says Cruz could also do something about the EPA and federal regulations, which are holding back the economy. During a stop in Oshkosh last week Cruz also talked about Social Security, Immigration and implementing a flat tax.

Thursday, March 31st.

State Supreme Court candidate JoAnne Kloppenburg talked about her campaign. She says she wants to make sure people going before the State Supreme Court get a fair shake and that justice is being done without fear of favor. She says that's why she's running for the State Supreme Court. Kloppenburg also says people should not be so quick to dismiss a controversy over an anti-gay opinion piece her opponent Supreme Court Justice Rebecca Bradley wrote 25 years ago. Bradley says she apologized and her views are different now, but Kloppenburg says that may not be true.

New Jersey Senator Cory Booker touted Hillary Clinton's campaign for President. Next Tuesday, April 5th is the Presidential Preference Primary in Wisconsin. Donald Trump made headlines in the state by saying women who receive abortions should be punished. He later walked back the statement. But Booker says the campaign isn't just about a woman's access to health care. He says Hillary is looking to do things Trump and others aren't doing like paid family leave, increasing the minimum wage, and universal preschool. Booker has been mentioned as a possible Clinton running mate. He says it's nice to hear, but not what he's focusing on. He says he loves being a Senator and hopes to be one for a long time, but he's focusing on getting Hillary elected.

Fond du Lac County Clerk Lisa Freiberg gave us a primer for the Tuesday, April 5th election. She predicted about 60 percent of registered voters in Fond du Lac County would vote in next Tuesday's election. She says there's interest in the State Supreme Court Race, Presidential Primary, six county board races and a hot Town Board race in the Town of Taycheedah. She also reminded voters they can only vote one party, will need Photo ID to vote and can register at the polls during Election Day. She also passed along information on a website where people can find out where they vote.